

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 00695 160958Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----161003Z 060632 /23 10

O R 160911Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO USDEL SECRETARY IN TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
INFO USIA WASHDC
SECSTATE WASHDC 3079

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 0695

EXDIS

FOR HODDING CARTER III; TELEVIV FOR ABBINGTON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)
SUBJECT: SECVISIT BEIRUT - PRESS SCENARIO

REF: (A) STATE 29776, (B) BEIRUT 637, (C) BEIRUT 677

1. FOLLOWING IS SCENARIO FOR USE IN BRIEFING MEMBERS OF
TRAVELING PRESS GROUP ON ARRANGEMENTS IN BEIRUT:

1115 ARRIVAL AT BEIRUT AIRPORT. PRESS WILL BE MET BY ACTING PUBLIC
AFFAIRS OFFICER BOULOS MALIK. PHOTO OPPORTUNITY (TRAVELING PRESS
CAN TAKE PICTURES BUT WILL NOT JOIN LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL PRESS
PREPOSITIONED ON GROUND FOR SECURITY REASONS AND IN ORDER ASSURE
THAT PRESS BUS NOT LAG BEHIND OFFICIAL MOTORCADE).

1120 PRESS BUS DEPARTS (VEHICLE NO. 9 OF MOTORCADE, JUST BEHIND
OFFICIAL PARTY VEHICLES, AHEAD OF STAFF GROUP VEHICLES) FOR
PRESIDENTIAL PALACE.

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1145 ARRIVAL AT PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. PHOTO OPPORTUNITY. HONOR
GUARD AT PALACE ENTRANCE.

1147 PRESS TO USE SIDE ENTRANCE. PHOTO OPPORTUNITY IN CONFERENCE
ROOM FOR PLENARY MEETING. PARTICIPANTS: SECRETARY AND MEMBERS OF
OFFICIAL PARTY, INCLUDING AMBASSADOR PARKER; LEBANESE FOREIGN
MINISTER FUAD BOUTROS, FOREIGN OFFICE SECRETARY GENERAL, DIRECTOR

OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS, DIRECTOR OF BUREAU FOR RESEARCH, DIRECTOR OF BUREAU FOR INTL ORGANIZATIONS, AND OTHERS.

1150 PRESS PROCEEDS TO HOLDING AREA (ANOTHER CONFERENCE ROOM IN PALACE). THOSE WHO WISH TO FILE WILL BE TRANSPORTED TO AMERICAN EMBASSY RESIDENCE AT YARZE (WHERE LUNCH WILL BE SERVED), ARRIVING AT 1155.

1225 SECRETARY VANCE, DEPUTY SECRETARY HABIB, ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON AND AMBASSADOR PARKER WITHDRAW FROM PLENARY SESSION TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT ELIAS SARKIS, PRIME MINISTER SALIM AL-HOSS, AND FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS IN PRESIDENT'S OFFICE. PHOTO OPPORTUNITY IN SALON OUTSIDE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE AS PRESIDENT RECEIVES SECRETARY.

1230 REST OF PRESS DEPARTS FOR AMERICAN RESIDENCE AT YARZE, WITH EXCEPTION OF POOL FOR PHOTO OPPORTUNITY BEFORE LUNCH IN PRESIDENT'S PRIVATE QUARTERS.

1310 POOL MEMBERS PROCEED UPSTAIRS FOR PHOTO OPPORTUNITY IN SALON (APERITIFS) AND DINING ROOM.

1320 POOL DEPARTS FOR AMERICAN EMBASSY RESIDENCE AT YARZE, ARRIVING AT 1325.

1400 ALL MEMBERS OF TRAVELING PRESS DEPART FOR PRESIDENTIAL PALACE, ARRIVING AT 1405.

1415 PHOTO OPPORTUNITY AND POSSIBILITY OF DEPARTURE STATEMENT.

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1425 PROCEED TO PRESS BUS FOR IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE.

1430 MOTORCADE LEAVES FOR AIRPORT.

1450 ARRIVAL AT AIRPORT. PHOTO OPPORTUNITY.

1455 PROCEED TO AIRCRAFT.

1500 WHEELS UP.

2. ARRANGEMENTS AND GUIDELINES: LEBANESE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION WILL INSTALL TWO TELEX MACHINES AND TWO INTERNATIONAL PHONE LINES AT AMERICAN EMBASSY RESIDENCE. CREDIT CARDS WILL BE HONORED. HOWEVER, SINCE MOST LEBANESE COMMUNICATION FACILITIES STILL FAR FROM BEING FULLY OPERATIVE, TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES MAY ARISE. THIS IS WHY RESIDENT COUNTERPARTS OF TRAVELING PRESS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO JOIN THEM AT YARZE FOR LUNCH AND FOR ASSISTANCE IN FILING AND SHIPPING THROUGH THEIR BEIRUT BUREAUS.

3. TRAVELING PRESS SHOULD BE ADVISED THAT PRESIDENT SARKIS DOES NOT READILY WELCOME THE PRESS. THE SECRETARY'S VISIT IS THE FIRST TIME THAT ANY PRESS HAVE BEEN ALLOWED INTO THE PALACE, LARGELY OUT OF DEFERENCE TO THE SUGGESTIONS OF THE EMBASSY. IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE MEETINGS THAT THE PRESS NOT ASK QUESTIONS OF GOL OFFICIALS AT ANY TIME, UNLESS QUESTIONS ARE SOLICITED. THE EMBASSY REQUESTS THE UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION OF THE PRESS IN THIS REGARD.
PARKER

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NNN

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